

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2005 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 29032005). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, Claims 1 through 20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 through 20 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Entry of the amendments to Claims 1 and 6 through 20 is respectfully requested.

Additional Amendments:

The Specification has been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Entry of the amendments to the Specification is respectfully requested.

Formal Objection:

The disclosure was objected to in that line numbering is missing for the specification, claims and abstract. In response, it is respectfully submitted and believed that a requirement does not presently exist for line numbering for the specification, claims and abstract. In this regard please see MPEP 608.01 to 608.01(m). If such a requirement for line numbering presently exists as would be applied to the above identified application, which was filed on August 9, 2001, Applicants respectfully request the assistance of the Examiner in identifying such requirement in either the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) or in the MPEP. Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is therefore respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,850,531 to Rao et al., hereinafter the Rao '531 Patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 9, 14, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Rao '531 Patent, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,920 to Comstock, hereinafter the Comstock '920 Patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The above rejections of Claim 1 through 20 will be considered collectively.

Features of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11 and 17, are that the packet switching apparatus includes: a pathfinding table for containing entries on a plurality of entry lines, to which the identifier of an output tunnel or an input tunnel including one session or a bundle of a plurality of sessions through which packets are logically passed to a point in a network, and the identifier of an output session or an input session are defined; and a processing unit for packets received which searches the pathfinding table for an entry line matching with the route information included in a packet received, and performs processing for the received packet, according to packet output route information specified on the searched out entry line, and sends out the received packet through the output port identified by the output port identifier on the specific entry line.

Further, features of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as recited in Claim 15, are that the packet switching apparatus includes: a pathfinding table for containing entries on a plurality of entry lines, to which route information to be known when a first packet of a session is received and associated information about the identifier of an output port through which to send out the packet received are defined; and a processing unit for packets received which searches the pathfinding table for an entry line matching with the route information included in a packet received, performs processing for the received packet, according to packet output route information specified on the searched out entry line, and sends out the received packet through the output port identified by the output port identifier on the specific entry line.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a packet switching apparatus of the present invention can run as the access node for networking and can also implement offering diverse network services for a plurality of access methods (See Specification, Page 32, lines 12-15).

On the other hand, the Rao '531 Patent discloses that a LPI transmit function adds a media specific layer two encapsulation headers (See Col. 11, lines 51-58 of the Rao '531 Patent), and one of the types of connection indicates VLAN (See Col. 12, lines 60-65 of the

Rao '531 Patent). Also, the other cited reference, the Comstock '920 Patent, discloses Mobile IP tunneling (See Col. 2, line 55 to Col. 3, line 2 of the Comstock '920 Patent).

Moreover, the Rao '531 Patent does not disclose pathfinding based on the identifier of tunnel, the identifier of session or the identifier of an output port, but only discloses the packet switching apparatus available for VLAN.

Further, the Rao '531 Patent and the Comstock '920 Patent do not disclose a pathfinding table including an entry to which the identifier of an output tunnel or an input tunnel including one session or a bundle of a plurality of sessions, the identifier of an output session or an input session, or the identifier of an output port are defined, as well as not disclosing a corresponding processing unit.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified features of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17, are neither suggested nor disclosed in the Rao '531 Patent or in the Comstock '920 Patent; and it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17 are not anticipated by the Rao '531 Patent or are not obvious over the Rao '531 Patent in view of the Comstock '920 Patent. Further it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 2 through 5, 7 through 10, 12 through 14, 16 and 18 through 20 are at least allowable for the same reasons that the independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17 from which they respectively depend are allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and Claims 4, 9, 14, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 through 20 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration No. 34,672

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

August 4, 2005

SPF/JCM/JB